तैयारी पूरी करें। मैं इस के ऊपर सरकार की ओर से एक स्पष्ट वक्तव्य चाहता हूं। यह मेरी मांग है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ने मुझे समय दिया आप का बहुत-बहुत ध न्यवाद।

श्री के० आर० मलकानी : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक स्पेशल मैंशन है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Though your Special Mention is not there in the list, I am permitting you to raise that. The power to give permission to raise the Special Mention is vested in the Chairman. But, under Rule 9 of our Rules, any person presiding over the proceedings has got the same powers. So, I permit you to raise that.

Governments plan to train Indian Police Officers by the foreign experts

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (DELHI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a report that the Government is thinking of importing security experts. The idea is that experts will come from abroad and train our policemen and our police officers and the latter will also go abroad. And the idea is that this thing should be done to reassure investors, particularly foreign investors. I think, this is something very new, very strange, and very objectionable. At this rate, the foreign investors could say that there should be some foreign military contingents here to reassure them and give them security. This cannot be permitted.

We have an excellent police tradition. We have excellent police training schools and colleges. We have some of the best Policemen and Police Officers in the world. All that needs to be done, for example, is that politicians should not interfere with the working of the police. Another thing which we need to do is that the National Police Commission's recommendations should be considered and adopted as far as possible. Once that is done, our police force would be among the best in the world.

Now this so-called foreign aid for police forces is supposed to come from UN Department for Development Support and Managment Systems, something new-fangled, about which nobody has ever heard anything. They will spend some crores of money on this. Today, the tragic situation is that UN means US. Once you allow these things to come in, it will mean foreign interference in our internal affairs, it will mean infiltration of our police and para-military forces. It will also compromise our independence and sovereignty.

I would, therefore, beg of the Government to go into the matter, reject this proposal, and make its position abundantly clear. Thank you, very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Chaturvediji, what is your problem?

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Could I associate myself with this?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Yes, very much.

CLARIFICATION BY THE MINISTER

On slow progress in the probe on the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for long....

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR (UTTAR PRADESH): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Government had made an announcement before lunch that they would be making a statement at 5 p.m. Now, it is 6.30.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We are all waiting for that statement.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: I would like to know from the hon. Leader of the House when he is going to make a written statement so that we get sufficient time to seek clarifications.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We are all waiting for that. Otherwise, we would have gone.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I have been given to understand by the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Matang Sinh, that Mr. Chidambaram will be coming to this House at 6.30.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: It is already 6.30.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Because voting is taking place in the other House... *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (WEST BENGAL): Sir, voting is not the reason. I have checked with the Lok Sabha. There is no voting now. (*Interruptions*) It was over around 6 p.m. There was sufficient time for him to come here. For the last half-an-hour, we have been waiting only for that. We have been waiting for a very long period. In the morning, when we had many questions to ask of the hon. Home Minister, it was suggested by Mr. Matang Sinh that he had arranged for Mr. Chidambaram to come at 5 p.m.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Whoever it is.

DR. BIBLAB DASGUPTA: That was the reason why we left it there. We thought that without harassing the hon. Home Minister any more, we should wait till Mr. Chidambaram came. We have been waiting. We thought he would come at 5 p.m. We were here, but no announcement came. At 5.30 p.m. or so, when we asked the Chair could say was that whenever he came, he would make the statement. Now, Sir, if the Minister treats this House with such a contemptuous attitude. I am really sorry to say that we cannot function. I do not know how the Government is functioning.

One Minister makes an announcement.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Is there any Government?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: One Minister makes an announcement about another Minister. Now, both of them have disappeared.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Everybody has disappeared.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Except the Home Minister.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I want to make it clear. Until the Minister comes, we are here. The Minister has to come and explain. The Minister has to come. Otherwise, we will stay here. We will nto allow the House to be adjourned. We will stay here until the Minister comes and we get an explanation from him. Why is he not coming? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (BIHAR): No question of adjourning.

सभा महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हम सब लोग भी मिनिस्टर से कम व्यस्त नहीं है। हमारे पास कोई पद नहीं है, लेकिन हम सब लोगों का अपना-अपना काम है और हम सारे अपने काम छोड़कर यहां सदन में बैठे हुए हैं। मंत्री जी ऐसा सोच रहे हैं कि जैसे हम उनकी डिसक्रिएशन पर यहां बैठे हुए हैं। हम अपनी मर्जी से यहां पर हैं। अगर यह व्यवहार रहा सरकार का हम लोगों के साथ, तो कैसे हम लोग इस सदन में सरकार का सहयोग कर सकते हैं? .... (व्यवधान)... इतने पार्लियामेंटरी मिनिस्टर हैं और एक मौजूद नहीं है यहां पर। ... (व्यवधान)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We will continue to sit in the house. We will continue to stay in the House (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Sir, the House wants the Chair to give a direction to protect our right. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I have already directed the Minster of Parliamentary Affairs to catch Mr. Chidambaram early. Earlier, I was told that he would come at 6 p.m. Then, I was informed that he would come at 6.30 p.m. That is the information I have. (*Interruptions*) You draw your own inferences. What can I do? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Your direction has not been complied with by the Government or the Minister.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is a very impossible situation.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी डायरेक्शन नहीं मानी सरकार ने, यह तो और भी चिंता का विषय है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): It is not a new direction. It was given by the Chair in the morning that Mr. Chidambaram would be here to clarify the position. Despite the fact that the hon. Home Minister gave certain clarifications, it was decided that Mr. Chidambaram would come and clarify the position.

SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Should we go on sitting? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Let us wait for five-ten minutes. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: It is not a question of Mr. Chidambaram's coming. It is

a question of the responsibility of the 'Government. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chidambaram is an individual.

SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Should we go on sitting without any Business? What should we do? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): What do you want me to do? What is the sense of the House? Should we adjourn? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: We want that the Government should be indicted for its non-compliance with the Chair's orders. That is what we want. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) : Till Mr. Chidambarm comes, Members can make a few points. (*Interruptions*) First, let Mr. Chaturvedi associate himself with the Speical Mention made earlier by Mr. K.R. Malkani. (*Interruptions*) Let us wait for some time (*Interruptions*).

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इतना तो हम पूछ सकते हैं कि आखिर और कितना समय और यहां बैठेंगे।... (**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) : दिग्विजय सिंह जी, मैं आपकी व्यथा समझता हूं। मैंने मतंग सिंह जी को भेजा है कि उनको जल्दी लाइए, यह ठीक नहीं है क्योंकि सब लोग इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: अगर वही नहीं आए तो क्या होगा?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) फिर अपन सब बैठकर तय करेंगे कि क्या करना है।... (**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : कुछ तो तय करके कह दीजिए कि 15 मिनट और इंतजार कीजिए या दस मिनट और इंतजार कीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल): चलिए, पांच मिनट उनको बोल लेने दीजिए।... (**व्यवधान**)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Where is Mr. Chidambaram hiding? Does he want to run away from Parliament? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Till Mr. Chidambarm comes, let us wait. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOPTAL BASU: Sir, by now, we are exposed to the mismanagement of the Government so far as the Business of the House is concerned. But I think, today, it has broken all records. I do not know who is there to respond. (*Interruptions*) The Home Minister is not responding. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (BIHAR): Mr. Vice-Chairman, can I take a minute? it has never happened. I have not seen such a thing in my experience that from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. we are being held in bondage there. (*Interruptions*)

Every ten minutes we are told that the Minister is coming. I don't think this House is going to decide its own business to suit the convenience of any Minister. In the morning a very important issue was raised. The hon. Leader of the House told us that so far as he was concerned, he was doing his best and that he will come. I don't think we should wait any more, and I would urge you to kindly adjourn the House.

D.R BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I disagree. I think we should wait. We have a number of things to say. Sir, if you allow me after Mr. Chaturvedi, I have a few things to say on this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Chaturvedi.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Adjourning the House for non-compliance would be an indictment. ..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: You adjourn the House.

SHRI VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Let him speak first. Then we will see.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SING: You are supposed to associate, I believe.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, please allow me one minute after him.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (UTTAR PRADESH): Sir, the matter was raised by Mr. Malkani about the induction of foreign trainers into the police security set-up. The way it has come in the press is highly disturbing.

I would like to bring to the notice of this House that there was a Gore Committee on police training, and it had given a very

comprehensive report. Particularly, two items in this report are extremely disturbing. The first one is that in India there are going to be more and more of social tensions. The second thing which this report mentions is that there is a need to assure the foreign investors. It is as if our police is not good enough to take care of these two things. The third thing which is also very disturbing in this report is with regard to which agency will look after this, that there is an agency is New York.

I would like to say that in this training business there are a lot of brokers and middlemen, with the UNDP working, and this should not be allowed in police training. The Bureau of Police Research is a very strong organization. As was mentioned, for different levels of police officers, including the lower echelons in the police service, there are very good training institutions. Thee should be interchange of experts but wwe should not hand over our police training programmes to the so-called foreign trainers because it will create its own complications. Thank you.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अब इनका भाषण खत्म हो गया है, आपने कहा था कि इनके भाषण के बाद आप अपनी व्यवस्था देंगे।

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : आपकी आज्ञा से मैंने खत्म कर दिया है। . . . (व्यवधान). . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) : मैंने यह नहीं कहा था कि व्यवस्था कर दूंगा, मैंने कहा था कि डॉ. बिप्लव दासगुप्त को समय दूंगा बोलने का . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : आपने यह भी कहा था कि पांच मिनट के बाद मैं व्यवस्था दूंगा और पांच मिनट इनका भाषण हो गया . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . . आप यह बताएं, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार यहां बैठी है, इनके नेता यहां बैठे हैं, मंत्री बैठे हैं या तो सरकार की इच्छा हो तो दे दें आज और नहीं इच्छा हो तो मत दें आज .... **(व्यवधान)**. ....

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : यह हाउस का कंटेम्प्ट है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : यह हाउस का कंटेम्प्ट है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . . यह सारे सदन का अपमान है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

DR. BIBPAB DASGUPTA: Sir, it is really disgusting.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Kindly adjourn the House.

. . . *(Interruptions)*. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWWAL): Let us wait for five minutes.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Kindly adjourn the House for non-compliance of your direction . . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

यह हाउस का कंटेम्प्ट हो रहा है यह कमिटमेंट हुआ था कि 6:30 बजे इनके मिनिस्टर आएंगे और 6:40 अभी हो गए हैं . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : 6:40 हो चुके हैं, 5:00 बजे से हम लोग यहां बैठे हुए हैं . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : तो मेरा आपसे अनुरोध यह हैं कि आप कृपया सदन को स्थगित कीजिए।

. . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is contempt of the House.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : ऐसा कभी हुआ है? . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . . यह एक ऐसे व्यक्ति का मामला है जिसका रोज नाम लेकर सरकार चल रही है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. .

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श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: वे अब आंएगें नहीं . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : वे कोई मामूली व्यक्ति थे क्या? . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : वे कोई मामूली व्यक्ति नहीं थे, वे . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Adjourn the House. . . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : कोई मामूली व्यक्ति होता तो बात थोड़ी समझ भी आ सकती थी। सरकार जिसका सवेरे-शाम नाम लेती है, उस आदमी पर बयान देने से भी सरकार कतरा रही है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . . यह कोई मामूली आदमी की घटना है? . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . . राजीव गांधी इस देश के प्रधान मंत्री थे और यह उनका मामला है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . . यह सारे दोश का अपमान है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : यह देश का अपमान है . . . **(व्यवधान)**. . .

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: You

adjourn the House.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) : लीडर आफ दि हाउस यहां बैठे हैं, क्या उनको कुछ कहना है?

DR. BIPLAB CASGUPTA: It is contempt of the House.

. . . *(Interruptions)*. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): The Leader of the House..

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I tried my best to get Mr. Chidambaram but, somehow, I do not know what is happening, where he is held up. I have no objection if you adjourn the House. We can take up this issue tomorrow.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Adjourn the House for non-compliance of the commitment made to this House.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is most disgraceful.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: In spite of the assurance, he has not turned up. . . . *(Interruptions)*. . .

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: The House should be adjourned. *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He ran away from the House. Please adjourn the House. . . . *(Interruptions)*. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Please take your seats. . . . *(Interruptions)*. . .

Please take your seats. When the Chair is on its legs, you should not speak. That is the rule; that is the convention, tradition and decency.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That is why we sat down.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Yes.

I was summoned by the Deputy Chairman because she was leaving for Bombay. I was advised by her, "Don't press for your Short Duration Discussion at five o'clock so that the Special Mentions could be completed by 5-30 p.m. At 5-30 p.m., Mr. Cidambaram will come. Then, you carry on with the proceedings of the House." I agreed to that proposal. That is why I sought adjournment of my Short Duration Discussion for tomorrow, though that was very inconvenient to the hon. Finance Minister. I made a request to him to accomodate this because this situation was developing, and the whole House was very much interested in knowing some facts about that great tragedy which the nation faced. I am one with you so far as the tragedy is concerned. The whole House shares the grief. The whole nation shares the grief. We want that the probe by the Jain Commission should be expedited and that all facilities should be made available to it. It is very unfortunate.

I was given to understand that he was coming at six o'clock. So, I have leniency to the hon. Members to speak more on the Special Mentions.

Then, I was given to understand by Mr. Matang Sinh that he would be coming at 6-30 p.m. He sent me a chit also, sitting that Mr. Chidambaram would come.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: He too ran away . . . *(Interruptions)*. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Just a minute. Is it necessary to speak?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Chidambaram has come now.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Chadambam, I am sorry that I was being told again and again that you would come. The Members of the House feel very much.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: You must explain the delay.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) The House was given to understand that you would come at six o'clock. Another slip came that you would come at 6-30 p.m. I do not know what prevented you from coming to the House, as promised.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I will answer that, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: You apologise and then speak.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Wait. . . . *(interruptions)*. . .

Please listen to me.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: He must apologise for it. We are not his servants. He must apologise first and then speak. What is this? Nothing is more important than Parliament.

. . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have no hesitation in apologising to Parliament.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): That is all.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have no hesitation at all. Allow me to say that the commitment was made hee without consulting me or without even informing me. Kindly listen to me.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: There is no coordination.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is the position. When I came here, I was asked to come here at about 2-45 p.m., I rushed to the House. The subject had been adjourned. I was told that the commitment had been made. I immediately told the Minister concerned, "I should have been consulted about it because either I will make the statement now or I will make the statement after a meeting which had been scheduled long ago. There was no way I could cancel that." I explained my difficulty to him in cancelling it. He said that he would meet the Deputy Chairman and would explain to the Deputy Chairman that the moment my meeting was over, I would come to the House. So, I left it to the Minister concerned.

I think, the Minister made the commitment *bona fide,* but, I think, he realised latter that he should not have made the commitment without referring it to me. I came to the House at 2-45 p.m. three minutes after, I got a telephone call, The subject had been adjourned. After that, I said, "I am ready to make a statement any time, but a meeting had been fixed. They have come from all over the country. There was no wway of cancelling it." I said, "I will finish the meeting and rush back to the House." The moment the meeting was over, I rushed back to the House. The meeting was over four minutes ago. We have driven right through, and I have come here in four minutes. So, I have no intention of causing any disrespect to the House. I know that the Minister made that commitment. He is, of course, a new Minister. He may have made the commitment genuinely. I do not blame him for that, but, please don't think that I will show any disrespect to this House.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: But it shows lack of coordination.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): That is a different matter, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta. The explanation seems to be plausible. That is a different matter, whether there was coordination or no coordination.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Will you give a written statement or an oral statement?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Oral

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: No, we want a written statement.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I responded in the Lok Sabha to mentions made by Members there and I will respond to the mentions made by hon. Members here in the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Lok Sabha is different. Here we have a tradition. Here we must not hear the Minister, but he must make a written statement about this issue, which has become a national issue. It is an emotive issue. It must be a written statement and the Members will have a right to seek clarifications. That is the convention of this House. We would not like to hear the Minister whatever he says, we would like to have a written statement from the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (Shri Satish Agarwal) That is perfectly correct, but hon. Members, the matter was raised by Mr. Suresh Pachouri in the morning during Zeo Hour Mentions and many other Members associated with him. Practically the whole House shared the grief. When the Home Minister made certain clarifications, it was felt that other points will be made by Mr. Chidambaram. Mr. Chidambaram was not available then. It is only in response to a Zero Hour Mention that the Minister is responding. This is not a question of a written statement. Mr. Fotedar, kindly do not persist in making that point, becuase it is in response to a Zero Hour Mention. So, let him speak. I am here. I will permit you to further seek clarifications.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this is a very delicate and sensitive matter and

personally, and speaking as a Minister for the Government, I feel very deeply concerned about the matter as well as certain aspects of the matter. I am grateful to hon. Members for expressing their concern.

Sir, I have noted the observations made by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in the course of her speech at Amethi yesterday. I have noted the word used by her — "Vedna". I think the word means anguish. She had, Sir, some months ago expressed to me in a private meeting her anguish over the slow progress of the various inquiries. I shared the anguish with her. I shared it with those who were in the Government at that time, including the Prime Minister. Yesterday she had given public expression to that anguish. I have no hesitation is saying that I share her concern. In fact, everyone in the House shares that concern. Sir, I found that the Prime Minister, the Ministers, the Members of Parliament on the Treasury side have allshared the concern for several months and, in fact, the concern has grown in recent days, because there is a perception that not enough has been done. Sir, I was entrusted with this responsibility on 24th May, 1995 by an order made by the President. It is because I share Mrs. Gandhi's concern that I accepted this assignment. I believe I enjoy the confidence of the Prime Minister; I believe I enjoy the confidence of Mrs. Gandhi and I can assure this House, whose confidence, I believe I enjoy, that I will do everything possible to expedite both the trial at Madras and the inquiry by the Jain Commission.

I wish to share with this House some facts.

Within days after I accepted this assignment, on the 3rd of June, 1995, we sent a request for extradition of the three accused to Sri Lanka. I made a statement in the Lok Sabha on that day. The Rajya Sabha had adjourned the previous day and, so, I could not make the statement here. But hon. Members would have read that statement. That statement is a comprehensive statement on all the steps that have been taken leading up to the formal request for extradition.

The second subject is the trial. The dastardly act was committed on the 21st May, 1991. It was a blind case. People who are acquinted with criminal law and criminal prosecution will know what I mean, when I say, it was a blind case. A Special Investigation Team successfully broke open the case and within the statutory period of 365 days had filed the chargesheet on the 20th May, 1992. Forty-one persons are accused. Twelve persons are dead. Three persons are absconding. Twenty-six persons are facing trial. This group of militants is, perhaps, the most ruthless group of killers that the world knows. Very special arrangements have to be made for their custody and for the trial of the case. Innumerable, innumerable legal hurdles have been placed in the way. Just to give an idea of the hurdles placed in the way, there have been 399 petitions before the trial court, 25 petitions before the High Court, 3 petitions before the Supreme Court. The Judge who is trying this case is a patient, courageous, honest and straightforward man. Despite innumerable legal and procedural difficulties placed in the way, he has conducted this trial. We have had 212 days of actual trial. One hundred eighty three witnesses have been examined so far. Nine hundred and eight documents have been marked. Five hundred and fifty-seven material objects have been marked.

After I took over, Sir, I had a long meeting with the prosecutors. The senior prosecutor is an elderly man, but a very distinguished advocate who devotes the whole of his time to this case. I have laid down a very tight time-table for the evidence on the side of prosecution. I am confident, Sir, that we will be able to complete our evidence in the next few months and all the evidence in this case will be completed by December.

I am confident, Sir, that this case will proceed to its logical conclusion. If any of the accused is guilty, I am confident, the Judge will find him guilty. I promise you, Sir, punishment is certain, punishment will be severe.

As far as the Jain Commission of Inquiry is concerned, there was a perception and perhaps there is a perception that the Government is not cooperating with the Jain Commission in Inquiry.

Sir, we can hold two mirrors to our face— the mirror of truth and the mirror of perception. I realise, Sir, it is not enough to be truthful; it requires to be perceived to be truthful. I can only try to be truthful and hope that the perception is that I am truthful.

After I took over this responsibility, I have personally read and reviewed every single affidavit and every single document that either is before the Jain Commission or is required by the Jain Commission. I have spent many, many, many hours doing this work. In fact, I have spent more time on this subject than on the main subject allotted to me. I have assured Justice Jain that every document, every single document, will be made available to him. And every single document that he has asked for has been made available to him. Whatever may have been the perception three months ago—which I do not share—whatever might have been the perception then, every single document has been made available to Justice Jain, subject to only two reservations. I will tell you that those reservations are. The first reservation is with the case records of the trial that was going on in Madras. Any criminal lawyer would know, the case records cannot be made available to any ather authority without the permission of the trial judge and the trial judge has declined to grant permission. The second reservation is, in respect of a very small number of documents, a very small number, a handful of documents, the Government has claimed privilege. The claim of privilege has either been upheld by the judge, Justice Jain or has not yet been decided upon by him. Those documents also are being made available for the perusal of Justice Jain. But they cannot be shown to anyone else. So, Justice Jain has access even to those documents. There is no document which Justice Jain wants which I will not give him. Every single document has been or will be made available to Justice Jain.

Justice Jain has held 66 sittings. Today, it is the 66th sitting of Justice Jain. Many people have come before him and many people have made statements. I do not wish to judge the quality or the veracity of those statements. Justice Jain will judge them; the people will judge them; and I am sure, the grain will be sifted from the chaff. I have promised Justice Jain the fullest co-operation and I am confident, Justice Jain will be able to complete his inquiry and give his report as soon as possible.

You are aware, Sir, the Justice Jain himself has made a self-restraining order which has later been confirmed by the High Court that he will not, for the present, go into matters prior to 29th Jauly, 1987. That is an order made by Justice Jain himself and an order which the High Court has upheld for the time being. Subject to that, Sir, I am confident that Justice Jain will proceed with the inquiry on the items referred to him and he will give his report as soon as possible.

In conclusion, Sir, I wish to say this. Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister of India; Rajive Gandhi was Leader of the Opposition; Rajiv Gandhi was President of the Congress Party. He was all of this to me. More than that, Rajiv Gandhi was a personal friend. I spent hours with him. For over 16 months, I spent hours in 10, Janpath. There is nothing that I will not do to help the inquiry and the trial and to punish the guilty.

7.00 p.m..

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I want to ask one clarification.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): There will be no end to clarifications. I don't think in this particular background and situation there is need for any further clarification. After whatever he said at the end, I don't think there is any need for clarification (*Interruptions*) .

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: After his statement, it is not needed, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I am sorry to say so. (*Interruptions*) I am asking a very minor point. (*Interruptions*) we had in the morning some statement from Shri Chavan Ji. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN; (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) But he cannog give clarifications for Chavan Ji. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Biplab Dasgupta, you must submit to the wishes of the whole House. So, it is better you leave it.

So, the House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

The House then adjourned at one minute past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Saturday, the 26th August, 1995.

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